

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-14 and 16-32 are pending in the application. No claims have been allowed. Claims 1, 23, and 27 are independent. Applicants have canceled claims 15 and 33 without prejudice to pursuing in a continuation.

Restriction Requirement

The Action divides the claims into two groups: Group I (claims 1-13 and 23-26) and Group II (claims 14-22 and 27-33). Applicants hereby elect Group I and have canceled claims 15 and 33.

Further, Applicants have amended the application so that some of the claims that were in Group II now depend from claims in Group I. Applicants now invite the Examiner to reconsider the restriction requirement and examine the remaining claims that were in Group II as well as the claims in Group I. The dependent claims recite technologies related to composite images and therefore should not present an undue burden to search in conjunction with Group I.

Request for Interview

If any issues remain, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next Office Action in order to arrange a telephonic interview. It is believed that a brief discussion of the merits of the present application may expedite prosecution. Applicants submit the foregoing formal Amendment so that the Examiner may fully evaluate Applicants' position, thereby enabling the interview to be more focused.

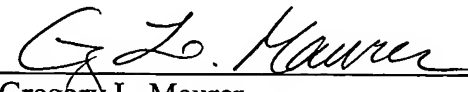
This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

Conclusion

The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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